ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

ZONTA SAYS NOW TO GENDER-EQUAL CLIMATE ACTION

Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
DISTRICT 23 UPDATE
January/February 2024



Is climate action too slow?

COP28 in Dubai marked the conclusion of the first 'global stocktake' against the Paris Agreement. Much like this tortoise, the UNFCCC concluded that *progress was too slow across all areas of climate action - from reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to strengthening resilience, to getting the financial and technological support to vulnerable nations.* The good news was that COP28 signalled the 'beginning of the end' of the fossil fuel era.

In Australia, there is some slow, steady progress being made to reduce fossil fuel use. For example, nearly a third of our households now generate power from solar panels, we have over 130,000 electric cars on our roads, all new homes in Victoria are now gas-free and the Government is consulting on the long-awaited fuel efficiency standards - so we can expect to see more fuel efficient vehicles on our roads! However, will this progress be undone by our expanding fossil fuel industry?

COP 28 included its first ever Health Day with 40 million health professionals joining a call to action to prioritise health in climate negotiations. Health care professionals are concerned about the impacts of climate on health and the impacts of the healthcare industry on the environment.

Our guest speaker at the February meeting will be **Catelyn Richards**, a registered nurse, who established Climate Action Nurses to empower Australian and Pacific nurses to take urgent climate action for themselves, their workplaces and their

communities. Catelyn was inspired to take action when she realised how intense heat was impacting people and how much waste was generated at her hospital. Catelyn is definitely not a tortoise!

Around Australia people are suffering from intense heat, bushfires and floods. In recent weeks, I have been volunteering with Red Cross Emergency Services and have visited many homes that were impacted by bushfires. People were shocked by how quickly the fire moved, with embers lighting fires two kilometres away from the fire-front. People in suburban homes never expected to be evacuated, yet they were. In the space of a few minutes, complacency was replaced by fear. The community is now recovering, but it takes mental health first aid and time to get over the shock - especially when the charred landscape is a constant reminder of what could have happened. Has your club considered hosting a mental health first aid course to support your community? Please revisit our Disaster Management leaflet and follow the links to make sure you are disaster-ready.

Finally, if you have a creative streak, please consider submitting an entry to the **Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery.** This year's entries close on 29 February, so be quick! This is not a competition. You can send a photo, a poem, a video, a photo of a quilt or sculpture or dance - anything that captures how you feel about climate change and its impact on life. Please provide a short description to go with the artwork on the entry form. The Virtual Art Gallery will be launched on Mother Earth Day on 22 April.

Don't forget to register for the February Think Tank meeting using the button below - we have so much news to share with you.

Keep breathing, keep smiling and have fun!

Kind regards

Carole
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https://zontasaysnow.org.au/think-tank/

REGISTER NOW FOR THE
District 23 Think Tank on Saturday 17 February 2024

1:00 - 2:30 PM Western Australia
3.00 - 4.30 PM Queensland
3:30 - 5:00 PM South Australia
4:00 - 5:30 PM Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales

Register for Saturday 17 February



A G E N D A

1. Welcome / Zoom Housekeeping
2. **Guest Speaker: Catelyn Richards, Climate Action Nurses**
3. International News
4. District News
5. Club News
6. Any other business
7. Next meeting – 27 April 2024



Upcoming D23 Zonta Says NOW Think Tank Meeting

District 23 Think Tank Saturday 27 April 2024

1:00 - 2:30 PM Western Australia
2:30 - 5:00 PM South Australia
3.00 - 4.30 PM Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales

Our speaker at the April meeting will be Diane Kraal taking about her new book,
A Just Transition to Decarbonisation

Register now for Saturday 27 April 2024



Zonta Says NOW Calendar Dates

There is a lot happening locally and globally with Zonta Says NOW. Here are some dates to put in your diary.

- Saturday 17 February, D23 Think Tank meeting
- Sunday 18 February, Intercontinental Think Tank meeting
- Thursday 29 February, closing date for the Virtual Art Gallery entries
- Sunday 17 March, Zonta Says NOW presentation at NGO CSW 68
- Sunday 21 April, Intercontinental Think Tank meeting
- Sunday 27 April, D23 Think Tank meeting
- Monday 22 April, Mother Earth Day and launch of the Virtual Art Gallery
- Thursday 27 June, Zonta Says NOW Disaster-Ready Workshop at Convention

District 23
Zonta Says NOW Think Tank
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